Dear Colleagues,

This past week Past President Brady Mills and I attended the 7th European Academy of Forensic Sciences meeting held in Prague, Czech Republic representing ASCLD and IFSA. I offered opening remarks to the EAFS meeting on behalf of both organizations and I’ve attached those remarks. The theme of the meeting was, “Pushing Boundaries, Working Beyond Borders”. The conference tracks included:

- Management of Forensic Science Laboratories
- Future Development in Crime Scene Investigation
- Trends in Traditional and Novel Forensic Casework Approaches
- Electronic Data Evidence and Interpretation of Forensic Evidence.

Topics that came up repeatedly at the meeting were the application of the likelihood ratio as a means to provide information to criminal justice stakeholders regarding the meaning of the forensic conclusions reached as a result of testing crime scene evidence regardless of the scientific discipline used; The impact the 2009 NAS report has had on the forensic community and how the community has or has not responded; And, how the forensic community can better serve the criminal justice stakeholders.

It was a great week and we were able to meet many of our colleagues from both the US and abroad. In the photos are just a few of our colleagues we had the pleasure of seeing at this incredible meeting.

Kindest regards,

Jody

Opening remarks
Photo 1: ASCLD Past Presidents Richard Tanton, Carla Noziglia, Brady Mills, and President Jody Wolf.
Photo 2: ASCLD Past President Brady Mills, ASCLD President Jody Wolf, Past ENFSI Chair Ulla Lano, ENFSI Chair Jan de Kinder.

With this solicitation, NIJ seeks proposals for basic or applied research and development projects that will: (1) increase the body of knowledge to guide and inform forensic science policy and practice, or (2) result in the production of useful materials, devices, systems, or methods that have the potential for forensic application. The intent of this program is to direct the findings of basic scientific research, research and development in broader scientific fields applicable to forensic science, and ongoing forensic science research toward the development of highly discriminating, accurate, reliable, cost-effective, and rapid methods for the identification, analysis, and interpretation of physical evidence for criminal justice purposes.

We have another opportunity to use our newly minted electronic voting procedure to consider a Bylaws change that creates eligibility requirements for to serve on the Board of Directors. For those of you who attended our last Symposium in Washington DC, this proposal was presented under the moniker of 3-2-1. It essential requires that candidates for the BoD have: a) been ASCLD Members for 3 years, b) attended 2 Symposia, and c) served on 1 subcommittee.

The proposed language is contained here:

**SECTION 2. ELIGIBILITY & COMPOSITION**

Eligibility for nomination and election to the Board of Directors includes the following three requirements:

- ASCLD Regular Membership for 3 years
- Attendance at two ASCLD Symposia as a Regular Member
- Volunteer service on one committee or at one event.

The Board of Directors shall consist of twelve (12) regular Directors, elected from the regular members of the Corporation. In addition, there shall be, two (2) non-voting ex-officio Directors, one (1) who shall be the Executive Director of the Corporation and one (1) who shall be the immediate past President of the Corporation. If the immediate past President of the Corporation has not completed their full four year term of service on the board at the completion of their term as President, they shall retain their voting rights for their full four year term. No two regular Directors of the Board of Directors shall be from the same business, corporation or agency.

This proposed Bylaw change will be posted for 30 days. Please provide any comments for consideration.
to our Executive Director, Jean Stover, at asclddirector@gmail.com. We will take the official Electronic Vote sometime shortly after October 1, 2015.

Forensic Training

The Forensic Technology Center of Excellence Presents ASCLD: FBI Allele Frequency Amendments - Technical Discussion On-Demand (Approximately 75 Minutes)


The Forensic and Investigative Science Outreach, at West Virginia University, is offering many onsite forensic science courses and workshops through September 30, 2015, as part of an award from the National Institute of Justice. Click here for additional information.

Ron Smith & Associates – National Latent Print Examiner Training Academy. October 2015 Camp Shelby, MS
Click here for more information.

Bode’s Annual DNA & Investigators Conference, November 9-12, 2015 in Old Town Alexandria, providing DNA training on the latest techniques and technologies to the forensic scientific community.

The American Society of Crime Lab Directors, along with RTI, have made the below webinars available.

False-Positive and False-Negative Error Rates in Cartridge Case ComparisonsASCLD Rapid DNA Webinar 1 – Archival

Shimadzu’s triple quad GCMS-TQ8040, providing exceptional sensitivity, selectivity, and specificity for detection and quantitation of targeted drugs in the presence of background interferences, is the most powerful choice for your toxicological applications. It enables the analysis of more than 400 compounds in one run, and features automatic method creation, scan/SIM acquisition mode, and an MRM optimization tool.

The Smart Forensic Database includes hundreds of compounds with optimized transitions and collision energies, CAS registry numbers and retention indices (RI). The database supports simultaneous high-sensitivity analysis of samples using GC-MS/MS, eliminating the need to configure complicated analysis conditions.
Advanced Topics for Human Identification & Data Interpretation

December 1-4, 2015 | Philadelphia, PA

This 4 day course will offer world-class training for experienced forensic biology practitioners, technicians, and technical leaders involved in testing and testimony for forensic serological and human identification related testing. Each day will focus on issues of current interest in the field and conclude with an open dialogue panel discussion. Topics Include: Current issues with variability in the interpretation of complex mixtures; strategies for the implementation of Rapid DNA technology and sexual assault backlog reduction; alternate novel approaches to biological fluid identification; evaluation of statistical models and probabilistic modeling for mixed sample sources; improved methods for recovery of low template DNA; and legal implications of new strategies and developments in the field. Distinguished faculty include: John Butler, PhD, Niels Morling, MD, DMSc, Michael Coble, PhD, Mechthild Prinz, PhD, Jack Ballantyne, PhD, JoAnne Bright, PhD, and other forensic biology professionals.


ASCLD/LAB is a not-for-profit corporation specializing in the accreditation of public and private forensic laboratories. Since 1982, we have been committed to the ongoing accreditation, support, education and oversight of forensic organizations striving for excellence in forensic analysis. Visit our website to learn more about our accreditation programs, the assessment process and training opportunities.

Employment Opportunities
Sorenson Forensics Named Preferred Vendor in $79M Initiative To Reduce Rape Kit Backlog

Business Wire (press release)
SALT LAKE CITY--(BUSINESS WIRE)--Sorenson

News Around the Globe

Director of Evidence Collection Division (Crime Scene), Houston Forensic Science Center, Houston, TX, Expires: October 31, 2015

Experienced Firearms Examiner, Houston Forensic Science Center, Houston, TX, Expires: November 30, 2015

Experienced Latent Print Examiner, Houston Forensic Science Center, Houston, TX, Expires: October 31, 2015

Forensic Scientist I / Firearms Examiner, Colorado Bureau of Investigation (CBI), Colorado Department of Public Safety, Lakewood, Expires: September 22, 2015

Senior DNA Examiner, PAE, Fort Gillem, Georgia, Expires: December 8, 2015

Senior Latent Print Examiner, PAE, Fort Gillem, Georgia, Expires: December 8, 2015

Computer System Administrator, Wake County Government, Raleigh, NC, Expires: September 18, 2015

Supervising Criminalist, Washoe County Sheriff's Office Forensic Science Division, Reno, NV, Expires: October 2, 2015

Latent Print Examiner, Worcester Police Department, Worcester, Massachusetts, Expires: October 2, 2015

Latent Print Supervisor, Kansas City Police Department, Kansas City, Missouri, Expires: October 16, 2015


Laboratory Manager I – Forensic Chemistry Unit, Delaware Division of Forensic Science, Wilmington, DE, Expires: February 27, 2016

State CODIS Administrator, City of Albuquerque Police Crime Lab, Albuquerque, NM, Expires: September 25, 2015

Health and Safety Specialist, Houston Forensic Science Center, Houston Forensic Science Center, Expires: October 31, 2015

Forensic Scientist II, LVMPD, Las Vegas, NV, Expires: October 14, 2015

Forensic Scientist I, LVMPD, Las Vegas,
Forensics, one of the leading commercial forensics labs in the country, was named as one of only...

White House, NYC prosecutor pledge $79M to test rape kits
KUTV 2News
The Utah Bureau of Forensic Services is getting just over $1 million. ... has

New Protocol Leads to Reviews of “Mixed DNA” Evidence
Texas Tribune
"However, the likelihood that the defendant was the only source of the DNA went ... One of the experts who has been working with the forensic science ...

Cash crunch hurts Florida’s law enforcement
Miami Herald
But to deal with the state's crime lab issues, he's hiring his own analysts to ... While FDLE labs take 85 days on average to complete DNA lab tests, ...

Ohio, Kentucky get nearly $4M to test backlogged rape kits
WCPO
FILE PHOTO: Lab technicians work in a forensic lab. (Photo by T.J. Kirkpatrick/Getty Images). Copyright 2014 Scripps Media, Inc. All rights reserved.

Grant to reduce backlog of untested DNA evidence from alleged rapes
Tribune-Review
The Allegheny County crime lab has about 160 unexamined rape kits. Williams estimates there may be 400 more that police haven't submitted to the ...

NOPD awarded $1 million grant to clear rape kit backlog
NOLA.com
NOPD announces more than 50 changes to sex...
music unit The New Orleans ... for conducting DNA transfers from NOPD to the State Police crime lab

West Virginia labs sharing nearly $3 million to help process backlog in unprocessed rape kits
WOWK
Since 2008, the National Institute of Justice has provided more than $825 million for DNA analysis in crime laboratories and for activities such as ...

Arkansas To Test 1500 Rape Kits With Funds From New York
KUAR
The Arkansas State Crime Lab is receiving $97,000 dollars from Manhattan's District Attorney to test 1,500 rape kits housed by law enforcement ...

Austin, Travis County authorities to receive money to solve rape cases
MyStatesman.com
The only other Texas agency to receive grant money was the Jefferson County Regional Crime Laboratory, which will receive about $789,000 to clear ...
established agreements with two private forensic labs to secure competitive ...

Crime lab crisis
Florida Courier
150911_front04 TALLAHASSEE – Attorney General Pam Bondi put added pressure Wednesday on lawmakers to increase funding for crime labs as ...

Placer supes looking at new crime lab
Press Tribune Newspaper
The board approved the hiring of SmithGroup JJR of San Francisco for a crime lab-coroner's operations feasibility study at a cost not to exceed ...

Bode Cellmark Forensics provides advanced forensic solutions offering crime labs ways to reduce their workloads and budgets.

Bode’s newest offerings include:
Bode’s Annual DNA & Investigators Conference, November 9-12, 2015 in Old Town Alexandria, providing DNA training on the latest techniques and technologies to the forensic scientific community.

Sexual Assault Kit Backlog Reduction Program streamlines processes to eliminate backlogs of untested sexual assault kits.

Bode Buccal 2™ is uniquely designed to improve DNA databanking collecting and automate processing. The Bode Buccal 2 is a DIRECT COLLECTION SYSTEM that requires minimal training. There is NO Transfer Step Required.

Independent Validation Services are customized to meet your laboratory’s needs. Validation services provide completely unbiased analysis on your equipment, chemistries, or process.

Forensic Conferences
Arkansas to receive grant money for untested rape kits

THV 11
LITTLE ROCK, Ark. (KTHV) - Hundreds of untested rape kits in Arkansas could soon be heading to the State Crime Lab, and it's all because of new...

MN has no uniform standards for when to test rape kits
KARE
In a criminal investigation, if a sexual assault victim completes a rape kit, they ... In those instances, they might not send the kits to the crime lab so they...

More than 40 police agencies to get $79M to test rape kits
KING5.com
A new Washington state law requires rape kits to be submitted to the state patrol crime lab within 30 days. A KING 5 investigation found that only 10...

Nearly $80 million set aside to help cities, counties clear stockpiles of untested sex assault kits
OregonLive.com
The $79 million awarded is expected to enable 70,000 untested kits collected from sex assault victims to be submitted for DNA analysis to crime labs...

Exclusive: Revolutionary DNA Tech Used To Create 'Serial Creeper' Sketch
CBS Local
MIAMI (CBSMiami) – The sketch released Thursday by police agencies searching for a man who has been spying on and sexually terrorizing women...

September 20 - 25th, 2015: Midwestern Association Forensic Scientist fall meeting will be held in Mackinac Island, Michigan.

October 6-9, 2015: 14th Annual AFQAM Training Conference will be held in Pensacola Beach, FL.

October 12-16, 2015: Southern Association Forensic Scientist (SAFS) Annual 2015 Meeting will be held in Atlanta, GA.

October 18-25, 2015: Society of Forensic Toxicologists (SOFT) will be held in Atlanta, GA.

October 19 - 23, 2015: Southwestern Association of Forensic Science (SWAFS) in Oklahoma CI.

October 2015: Northwest Association of Forensic Scientists will be held in Spokane, WA.

April 3-8, 2016: International Association for Chemical Testing (IACT) in Orlando, FL.


Accreditation Training

ANSI-ASQ National Accreditation Board (ANAB) ANAB is a member of the ANSI-ASQ National Accreditation Board family of brands. ANAB provides accreditation for ISO/IEC 17025 forensic test laboratories and ISO/IEC 17020 forensic inspection agencies and a wide variety of training, workshops, and academic programs.
FBI Errors Lead to Discovery that DNA Evidence May be Far Less Foolproof When It Includes More...

AllGov
Relying on DNA evidence for criminal cases is great when the evidence ... such as Lynn Garcia of the Texas Forensic Science Commission (FSC).

Metro Police receive grants to clear backlog of rape kits
Las Vegas Sun
The forensic lab applied for the two grants earlier this year after realizing that it didn't have the funds or the capacity to test the backlog on its own.

Citing “Thousands” Of Untested Rape Kits, Bondi Seeks More Money For Crime Labs
FlaglerLive.com
Attorney General Pam Bondi put added pressure Wednesday on lawmakers to increase funding for crime labs as she detailed a massive backlog of ...

State reports dramatic decrease in backlog of unanalyzed rape test kits
Worcester Telegram
The tests then undergo a four-tiered process of analysis by the state – as of July 30, crime lab analysts reported they had 172 kits in “pre-testing.

Pooler agrees to property transfer for new GBI crime lab
Savannah Morning News
Like the existing crime lab, the new facility would serve 23 counties in the ... and fire debris, firearms and ammunition, forensic biology and forensic pathology. ... GBI Crime Lab Director Dr. George Herrin said the facility is expected to ...

ISO/IEC 17020 and Audit Preparation Workshop for Forensic Police Agencies
October 29-30, 2015, Alexandria, VA
Cost: ASQ member $600, non-ASQ member $650

ISO/IEC 17025 and Audit Preparation Workshop for Forensic Test Agencies
October 26-28, 2015, Alexandria, VA
Cost: ASQ member $750, non-ASQ member $800

For more information about these workshops, contact ANAB at 703-836-0025, ext 208. To register, please click on any of the dates above.

ASCLD-LAB Training

Training classes to help forensic laboratory personnel understand the requirements of ISO/IEC 17025 General Requirements for the Competency of Testing and Calibration Laboratories.

ASCLD/LAB-International Assessor Training Course for Testing Laboratories

ASCLD/LAB-International Assessor Training Course for Breath Alcohol Calibration

ASCLD/LAB-International Internal Auditor Training Course

ASCLD/LAB-International Preparation Course for Testing Laboratories

ASCLD/LAB-International Preparation Course for
Dr. Robert Bennett, forensic scientist
Charleston City Paper
The field of forensics, in and of itself, is a broad category, and it can range from looking at various poisons to DNA analysis for a variety of reasons to ... 

Forensic symposium scheduled for Oct. 7
Hays Daily News
HaysMed Education and The University of Kansas Medical Center Continuing Education and Professional Development and the Area Health ... 

Groundbreaking underway for crime lab
BlueRidgeNow.com
Shovels in hand, State Crime Lab Director John Byrd and N.C. Attorney General Roy Cooper broke the ground beneath them and “dug up a little dirt” ... 

Most investigators unaware of right method to collect samples for forensic testing: Experts
Times of India
Two teams of experts— forensic analysts from the Kalina lab and a forensic medicine expert from the BYL Nair Hospital— stood guard as the remains ... 

Students learn forensics firsthand
Gadsden Times
Students photograph the "crime scene" during a Forensics Class exercise at ... Students recently took part in a beginning lab to get started with critical ... 

Calibration Laboratories

American Association for Laboratory Accreditation (A2LA)
A2LA’s Training Program provides a variety of courses designed to help organizations achieve and maintain accreditation to international standards.